

# BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

## HOW WILLARD IS GETTING INTO SHAPE

By Robert Edgren

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### Continental A. C. New Sporting Club in This City, Has Lofly Aspirations.

THE Continental A. C. is the name of a new club in the process of formation in this city, which, if present plans are carried out, will be the first of a string of similar organizations extending from New York to San Francisco in all the principal cities. Its charter members, of which there are a considerable number, have very ambitious ideas to start with, the principal one being the erecting of a fine new home near Broadway and 73d Street, a twelve-story building, the cost of which is already estimated at \$2,500,000. In addition, a country club will be maintained, providing facilities for golf, tennis, trap shooting, baseball, football and track and field sports.

The new club, which has already obtained a charter, is to have accommodations for the staging of special athletic entertainments, such as boxing and wrestling matches. This would indicate that the far-seeing gentlemen behind the project have reason to believe that boxing will be legalized in the State at the next session of the Legislature, in which event boxing shows would be the source of big revenue. However, here is what the club's president has to say about its plans and specifications:

The club is to be the last word in the way of modern improvements in athletic facilities. In addition to 100 sleeping rooms it will be equipped with a monster gymnasium, an indoor running track, a standard swimming pool, 25 by 75 feet, every approved variety of sanitary bath and a theatre. It is to have a membership of 5,000, 5,000 members to be residents of New York. Non-resident members will be admitted upon when the country club adjacent was planned. Army and navy members will also be taken into the club, which will be run without profit-sharing membership by the members, who will elect a Board of Governors. Headquarters of the new club have been established at the Hotel St. Andrew, 73d Street and Broadway.

PLANS for such organizations make good reading and sound fine, but they are not always carried to a successful end. The Continental A. C.'s aspirations to rank with the New York A. C. remind us of a similar institution which Grant Hugh Brown had in mind about the time he was trying to promote a match between the late Les Darcy and a figure skater named Madison. Brown was going to transform Madison Square Garden, back on a couple of stories and whatnot, into the New York Athletic Club, comfortable and happy. He even had blueprints made of what was to have been practically a new edition, putting the name of the New York A. C. on the National Sporting Club of London or, in fact, any social-sporting organization in the world. If you happen to be in the vicinity of 35th Street and Fourth Avenue any day, you will notice that the old Garden is still there intact, with nary a change in its architectural make-up, and if you read the newspapers of two weeks or so ago you would have noticed that Mr. Brown has troubles of another kind, with the United States Government authorities in a matter dealing with the manipulation of war goods.

We hope, however, that the Continental A. C. will be better baser for organization than Grant Hugh Brown had, for there actually is need for another big club in New York.

"THE more I think of Willard, the more I like Dempsey's chances to win at Toledo next Friday," said Jim Guider last night. It will be remembered that Guider spent a week at the training camps of both fighters, studying the work of the men with the eyes of an expert. "There is just one thing that I am in doubt about," said Guider, "and that is Dempsey's power of resistance. Can he take a Willie Willard punch? He can take a Willie Willard punch, or rather if he can take him and evade the big fellow for a couple of rounds, forcing him to be aggressive, his chances will improve 50 per cent. According to my ideas Willard is not trained for such action as this and would soon give way if Dempsey can pursue such tactics. As for Dempsey, he is a joke, and Dempsey has the speed to make him look ridiculous if he employs it in the right direction. Of course Dempsey will like some of this, but his youth and natural stamina will make recuperation for him easier than it will be for Willard if the pace is set. Willard can't go along fast, because he has to set all over from his feet up to punch hard, and Dempsey doesn't. Jack is more natural in his movements and doesn't have to think twice about what he is going to do. He has the best whiff I ever saw and he doesn't lead with it, as Fitz and Kid Thomas do. He finds openings instinctively and he punches with speed to the spot like a sharpshooter. It looks like Dempsey to me inside of five rounds."

WHILE the heavyweights are occupying the centre of the athletic stage, we must not entirely forget the little fellows. There is Les Lynch for instance, the local champion, who is trying to get Pete Moran to stake his banian title in of over the twenty-round route. Lynch's ambition is to be champion among the bantams, for then he means he could earn enough money to buy himself an apartment house and thus drag his Dad from the "bed work" his extreme business entails. Eddie Mead, a boyhood pal of Joe, is another manager. He says he knows a job that will guarantee Herman to win a decision fight with Lynch. In addition, Mead says he will guarantee a manager a \$1,000 bonus will win the athletic career of a boxer a match.



## DEMPSEY'S TRAINING OVER, BUT WILLARD WON'T END GRIND TILL THURSDAY

Challenger's Trainer Declares That He Is in Perfect Condition for Big Scrap and He Won't Pull On a Glove Again Till He Faces Jess Friday.

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TOLEDO, Ohio, July 1.

JESS WILLARD will continue boxing until Thursday, but for Jack Dempsey the daily grind is over.

At 4.30 yesterday afternoon Jimmy De Forest, pale, anxious, moving nervously around the ring at Dempsey's camp, suddenly shouted "time," and hastily threw a towel over Jack's shoulders. Then De Forest began to smile for the first time this week.

"All over, Jack," he said. "Not a thing now to worry about." Then he wiped the sweat from Dempsey's head and shoulders and stood by cautioning Jack to be careful, as Jack hopped down from the elevated platform of the ring and started back to his quarters.

In his old, ragged red sweater—the sweater Jack wears as a mascot because it has been with him in training for many quicky won fights—Dempsey pushed through the crowd that was waiting for a last look at the lad who may be champion of the world before the week is over. De Forest was at his heels. When the trainer followed Dempsey into the house and stood by the door he smiled again and wiped the sweat from his pale face.

"Gee, I'm glad that's over," said Jimmy. "This last day has had me worried. I had a feeling that something might happen to the boy—some accident. I thought he might break a hand or get another bad cut over the eye, and I told him to box as lightly as he could, and gave the others orders not to hit hard whatever happened. But you know how many fellows have broken a hand or turned an ankle while taking it easy. Jack sprained his ankle three weeks before the Fulton fight by just turning around quickly when Kearns called 'time.'"

Dempsey won't put on gloves again till fight.

"A fellow breaks a hand while fooling with somebody much oftener than in a fight. Now he's through. He won't pull on a glove again till he gets into the ring on Friday. He is in perfect condition and he doesn't need any more work. I am not going to have him dry out because he's fine enough to fight any distance now, and I want him to put on weight and have something to draw on. He will eat a little more the next four days and he will put on six or eight pounds. That means that Dempsey will go into the ring weighing 200 pounds or a little more. We have taken care not to let him overtrain, and it has been hard because he feels like working all the time. He has come through all right, and I'll say I never saw a boxer train better or more willingly, or with a better temper. Jack is as easy in his mind as he would be if this was only an ordinary bout. I have trained some of the best fighters in the profession in the past twenty-five years, and I never saw one of them any calmer and more easy going just before a big fight than this boy is. That's going to help him win. Remember what I tell you."

Dempsey's last workout was held before a crowd that packed the carvans walled inclosure. It was as big as any Sunday crowd. There were hundreds of new faces, for every train coming into Toledo is loaded with men who have come to see the heavyweight championship battle and to be present if Dempsey is crowned King.

For once Jack didn't hit a single hard blow. It was easy to see he had trouble holding back, for his natural style is all of the plugging and hammering sort. He tapped lightly and slowly, for if he shoots out a blow with his natural speed even the impact of his closed fist, without the weight of body and shoulder, and the drive of the legs behind it, is a knockdown blow.

After finishing with each sparring partner Dempsey shook hands almost ceremoniously, said "Thanks, old boy," and gave each a friendly slap on the back. The sparring partners were grinning widely, and Jack and Jamaica, who have had their full share of hard slams during the past four weeks, were like boys starting on a picnic.

"I certainly am glad this is over," said Big Bill, stretching up his six feet and rubbing his hands over his stomach.

"My body certainly is sore where Jack soaked me and I'm tickled to death I'm not catching any more."

To this Jamaica, the game little 170-pound black boy who has fought Dempsey toe to toe day after day, gave grinning assent. I knew how Jamaica felt. Two days ago when Dempsey had dropped him to his knees and given him berserk battle through two hard rounds, I happened to glance behind a screen in the dressing room an hour later. There was Jamaica, still in his sweaty tights, lying flat on his back and staring at the ceiling. Limpness of his muscular body and the pathetic droop of his battered face made a picture of the utter weariness and dejection.

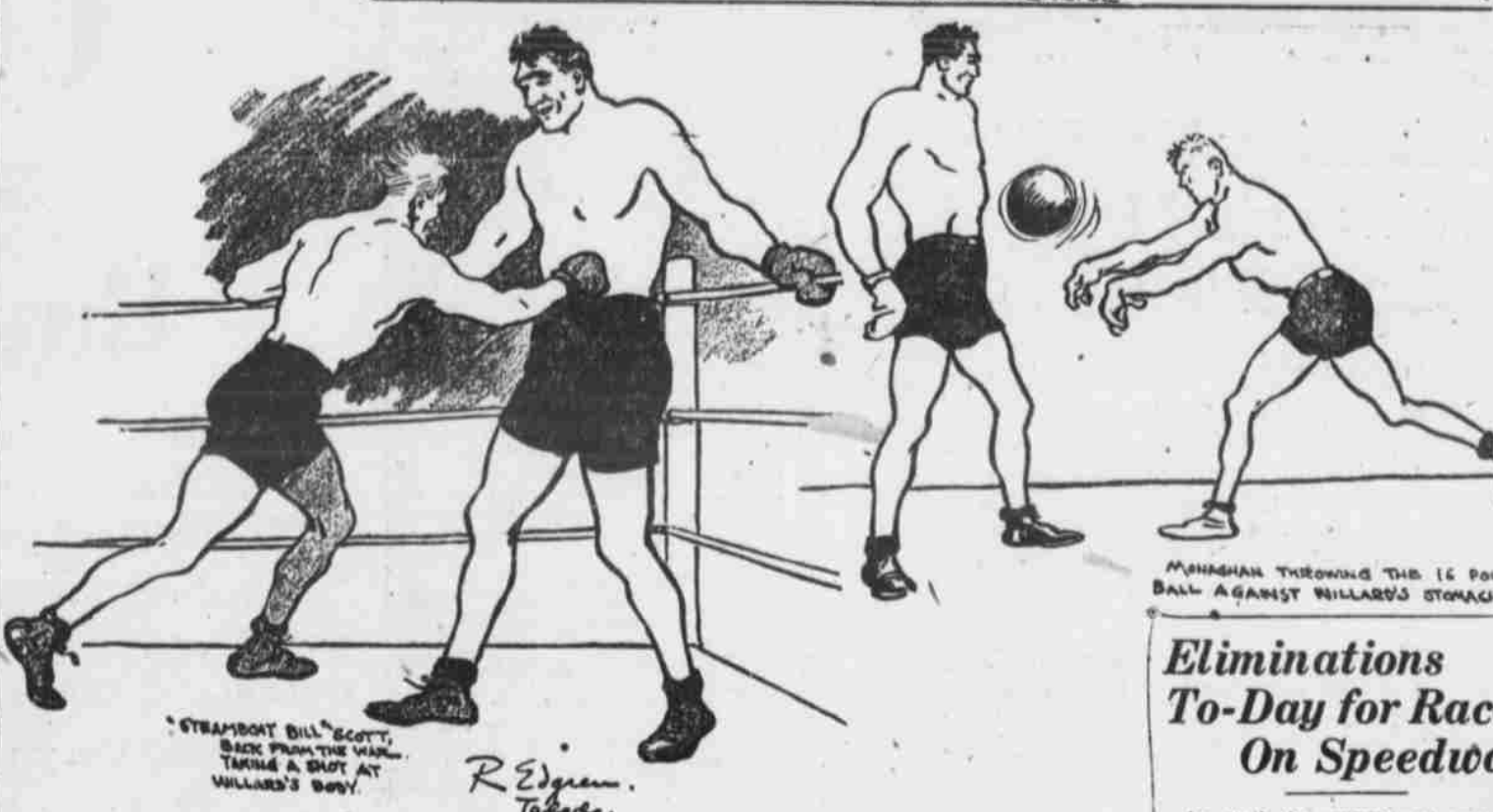
Dempsey's Popularity Has Influenced the Betting.

If I seem to have written much detail of the doings in the training camps during the past four weeks it is because it is in the training camps and not in the betting or the hotel lobby talk that there may possibly be a solution of the problem of July 4. If you listen to the crowd you find some scores of men who flatly say that Dempsey will knock Willard out in one round. You find as many also who say Dempsey will win but finish the champion within six rounds.

And you find others—most of them among the experienced followers of ring affairs—who say they can't imagine any man of normal size beating down the giant in as short a fight as twelve rounds. They say, too, that Dempsey will be hit by Willard's sharply delivered jabs and that Dempsey comes in with a crouching attack that will leave him uncovered and a mark. Willard can't miss with that terrific right uppercut which is the champion's most natural blow.

They argue that while Dempsey has a puzzling attack and a world of speed and a wonderful punch in either hand, Willard is a great boxer and puts such weight into a blow that any swat of his is likely to end the bout—especially if he is stung into throwing caution aside and hitting with all his strength.

Part of the enthusiasm for Dempsey and general derision of Willard is due, no doubt, to Dempsey's popularity and Willard's unpopularity. For myself, I cannot see why either should ever be unpopular. Each is a clean, cut, clean living fellow, courteous, quiet and always fair and honorable in and out of the ring. What man could any one want to



fighter. It's a fact, though, that popular favor is with Dempsey, and that this influences even the betting. Willard is in first class condition to-day; perhaps as good as he ever was in his life. He is the man who whipped Jack Johnson, and he is champion. Normally, he should be favorite. But Dempsey's wonderful condition, speed and record have made a lasting impression. While Willard has been out of the ring for four years, Dempsey has in the past two years won twenty fights with knockouts in the first round. If he were still Dempsey and as big as Willard the fight would be a joke. And his followers argue that he is big enough to make a joke of it in spite of a forty-pound handicap in weight and six-inch handicap in height and reach.

After the training yesterday I had a talk with Monahan and Hempel together. Each was anxious to assure me that Willard is in splendid form. I knew these boys well in Havana and have met them often since. I felt that they were both anxious to prevent my making what they would consider the mistake of picking Dempsey to win. It might have been just a natural inclination to boost their own man, but I don't think it was.

Jess's Trainers Think He's Better Than at Havana.

"What do you think of the big fellow's work to-day?" queried Hempel.

"Very good," said I. "He looks faster than he has been."

Hempel smiled. "Faster?" he said. "I should say he is faster. And he is stronger. He's stronger than he was at Havana and he doesn't box like the same man. He does things now he never knew how to do then."

I think he's twice the man he was when he beat Johnson. "He's wonderful," chimed in Monahan. "He's twice as hard to hit as he used to be, and he's as strong as a horse. I'm in better shape than I was at Havana, and I can't do anything with him at all. I can't move him, no matter how hard I land. He's better than he was at Havana; he's better than he ever was before."

And Monahan and Hempel both stood looking up at Jess shadow boxing there in the ring. They looked at him with an admiration that was almost reverence. To his sparring partners—the men who have felt the weight of his hand—Willard is more than an ordinary man. He is almost a god.

Willard's workout yesterday was three rounds with Hempel and three with Monahan, followed as usual by a round in which Monahan threw the sixteen-pound punching bag against Willard's ribs, and the shadow boxing and other exercises. In all the shadow boxing he chased an imaginary Dempsey into a corner of the ring, where he stood in a squatting position, half crouching, leaning well forward, teeth showing in a ferocious grimace, driving furious uppercuts with both hands as fast as his arms could pump up and down. It has looked from his shadow boxing work as if Willard intends to make this his one rushing, aggressive fight.

Between rounds Willard danced around and shadow boxed, taking no rest. And he didn't breathe hard at any time or show the slightest inclination to cut down the pace. He is no thicker at the waist now than he was at Havana. His legs look better and his muscles have been rounding out as the last trace of fat melted away.

Willard has been working secretly on the road at night. Nothing else would account for his swift improvement in form during the past week.

Man Who Never Picked a Loser Likes Dempsey's Chances.

Among New York sportsmen who looked both men over yesterday was Walter McAllister, who hasn't missed a championship since he beat his way to New Orleans as a boy to see Corbett whip John L. Sullivan. It's McAllister's boast that he has had a bet on every winner in a heavyweight championship bout since that day. He likes Dempsey's chance.

Billy Gibson, Benny Leonard, Richie Mitchell, Gene Delmont, Pat Nelson, Frank Moran, Johnny Kilbane, Johnny Schiff, Freddie Welsh, Jack McAuliffe, Battling Levinsky, Tommy Ryan, Jack Sharkey, Mervin Thompson, William Muldoon, Johnny Everhardt, George Engel, Charlie White, Kid Thomas, Ray Bronson and plenty of other new and old timers can be seen in the hotel lobbies day and night. The profession is drawn by a fight with \$125,000 going to the principals.

To-day the ticket sale is said to have reached half a million dollars. The rush is just beginning. Toledo hotels have 33,000 rooms, and with all of the temporary sleeping quarters arranged the 60,000 out-of-town spectators will be well housed.

### MAY BULD TRACK FOR ATHLETES INSIDE SPEEDWAY

The Metropolitan Association held a conference with the owners of the Sheepshead Bay Speedway yesterday and discussed the construction of a quarter-mile track and a grand stand inside the big two-mile wooden circuit. If the amateur body is successful in obtaining the track it plans to hold the annual senior championships on the new oval Aug. 23.

According to the officials, there is great need for a regulation track in this city where national championships can be promoted. Besides the circular track efforts will be made to build a grand stand seating several thousand persons and a 100-yard straightaway.

Seniors vs. Brooklyn, to-day, 8.30 p. m.

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### WILLARD IS FAVORITE AT 10-6 TO 10-8 FOR FRIDAY'S BIG FIGHT

Champion Is Regarded as Best, But Dempsey Gains Supporters.

TOLEDO, O., July 1.

JESS WILLARD in Toledo to-day ranges from a 10 to 6 to 10 to 8 favorite in the great fight set for Friday. Indications are he will enter the battle for his championship at 10 to 7.

Dempsey has gained supporters in the last week, largely because of the fact he has worked hard, whereas Big Jess has been content to go along easily. Those people who have watched the two scrappers work out have been very chary in expressing their ideas. They profess to be mystified by Willard's condition, but it is plain the champion is in condition to fight.

Howdy Wilcox, who will meet Ralph De Palma in what should prove to be the greatest match race every staged, will be on hand to-day with the other international stars to qualify in the elimination trials this afternoon under the direction of the Contest Board of the A. A. A. These tests will be thrilling, as every driver entered will make sure that he is a starter and will "open up" wide, which means speed never before heard of.

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR VETOES BOXING BILL.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., July 1.—Gov. Frank O. Lowden shortly before final adjournment of the Legislature vetoed the Ten Round Commission Boxing Bill, passed by both Houses.

The measure, declared by the Governor to be unconstitutional, would have permitted no decision contests and the use of five or six ounce gloves.

The governor referred to the repeal of a similar law in New York and pointed to the fact that the bill carried no appropriation for the salary of the referee.

"I favor boxing," said the message. "I had hoped that a bill would be presented, as we have learned to know it at the military encampments during the last two years."

"The more I study the bill the more I confess my disappointment in it. So as I am not a supporter of the bill, I am sorry for a prize fight, save the decision alone."

CAMP DIX COMMANDER APPROVES K. OF C. MEET

CAMP DIX, Wrightstown, N. J., July 1.—Major Gen. Harry Hays, commander of Camp Dix, has given his approval for the American Olympic games, which are scheduled for Aug. 31 and Labor Day at Camp Dix under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus. The events are to be open to all service men, in the United States Army, navy or marine or who have been discharged from the service.

Although Brady was the loser his friends were greatly pleased with the way he fought. They realized that Dundee is one of the greatest lightweights in the history of the sport and that it is no disgrace to be outpointed by him.

From the first going the boys went at it hammer and tongs, Dundee's airplane stunts making a big hit with the crowd. Brady was not at all baffled by the antics of his opponent and kept scoring every now and then.

Although Dundee won every round still the battle was so well contested that the boys will probably clash here again in the near future, as the fans demand a return engagement between the pair.

After the battle Phil Lewis, manager of Brady, announced that his protégé's next important engagement will be with Champion Benny Leonard.

Another Show for Soldiers.

A squadron of Knights of Columbus wrestlers and fighters visited at Ward's Island for the fifth time last night and staged an exceptionally good boxing tournament for the wounded heroes stationed there.

The veterans were trotted to thirty rounds of boxing. The following men boxed six rounds each: Pat O'Grady vs. Bobby O'Neill; Ray Smith vs. Silas Owen; Jim McGonigley vs. Tommy Shear; Pat Finnegan vs. Willie Quinn and Young Terry vs. Young Dundee.

Young Monday and Fred McCreesh were on for 10 minutes. "Jimmy" Tyeon acted as referee and Chris Tyeon acted as timekeeper.

### Eliminations To-day for Races On Speedway

Ira Vail, the sensational auto race pilot of Brooklyn, will be a contestant in the 100 mile Independence Derby at the Sheepshead Bay Speedway on the afternoon of July Fourth. Vail delayed entering the classic until he was certain that his new land flyer would be ready. He will drive a special machine which he claims will stand up for any distance and is at least six seconds faster per mile than the machine he drove in the International Sweepstakes three weeks ago. Vail is the "kid" of the daring sport of auto racing, but is one of the most daring pilots in the world. He is so daring that he finds difficulty in getting a mechanic to drive with him.

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### HOOKS AND SLICES

Theobald R. and Richard L. Grimmer Easily Lead Field of 175 Players in Father and Son Tourney at Sleepy Hollow.

Aided by a thirty stroke handicap, Theobald R. and Richard L. Grimmer of the New York Golf Club had little difficulty in leading the field of 175 players in the father and son tournament at Sleepy Hollow.

This is the fourth gathering of its kind, the first having been held in 1913, when Charles D. and Everett D. Cooke of Arcadia won. In 1916 Devereux Emmet, the well known architect, and Leveaux Jr. won, while in 1917 A. B. Ashforth and Henry Adams Ashforth were the last.

At Sleepy Hollow yesterday, Addison, playing with Albert Jr., one of the youngest, led in the morning play, and content with a place well down in the list. They played from scratch and could do no better than 92-108. Last week Ashforth finished second in the qualifying round of the Apawamis Invitation tournament.

Prominent golfers of all ages were on hand, including quite a gathering of members from the seniors' body. Darwin P. Kingsley, President of the association and also President of the New York Life Insurance Company, and Walton P. Kingsley, representing Garden City, finished with 92-108. Thomas P. Kirby, another senior, and his son Gustavus T. Kirby of Apawamis, had the 103-113 score.

At forty-five years old, so that his father and Justice Mahon Pitney and Shanton, his son, finished with 111-125. A trio of combinations started from scratch: A. B. Ashforth and A. B. Ashforth Jr., John N. Fine and John N. Fine, well known Nassau player, and Dr. A. T. and Richard Haight. Young Haight is the old Princeton star, who has done so well in tournaments this year, while Stearns is one of the best of the Nassau contingent. The Heights finished with 89, while Stearns and his father had to be content with 92.

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